

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF MUSIC**

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Dean Karen L. Wolff  
Conservatory of Music  
Oberlin College  
77 West College Street  
Oberlin, OH 44074-1588

Dear Dean Wolff:

The NASM Commission on Accreditation at its June meetings gave careful consideration to the application for renewal of Membership submitted by Oberlin College.

The Commission voted to continue the current Membership status of the institution and to seek further information before completing its work with the application. This deferral by the Commission is not a negative action. Rather, it enables consideration of issues and concerns by the institution and the Commission within the framework of the present Self-Study and on-site visit.

The institution is asked to respond to the following concerns:

1. It is not clear how the NASM standard that students be made familiar with the capabilities of technology is being met for all students enrolled in the degrees, Bachelor of Music in Performance and Bachelor of Music in Music History (see Self-Study, page 64; *NASM Handbook 1997-98*, page 79, item VII.E.). A separate advisory regarding this standard is enclosed.
2. It is not clear how the NASM standard requiring knowledge of fretted instruments and the voice is being met for students enrolled in the degree, Bachelor of Music in Music Education, Instrumental Emphasis (see *NASM Handbook 1997-98*, page 90, item VIII.J.3.b.[3]). The Oberlin Course Catalog 1997-98, page 388, Course 301, implies that the development of knowledge of fretted instruments is for voice-emphasis majors only.
3. The description of Course 101 in the Oberlin Course Catalog 1997-98 (page 390), which cites only "the history of Western music," should confirm the inclusion of a wider range of musics, including jazz, world music, and electronic and computer music, as indicated on page 63 of the Self-Study, because of the importance of this course to meeting the NASM standard regarding music of diverse cultural sources (see *NASM Handbook 1997-98*, page 79, item VII.D.1.).

The response should be submitted by October 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of November, 1998.

A copy of the NASM Visitors' Report is enclosed, along with a document outlining the procedures for submitting the response.